

ELKO INTERAGENCY DISPATCH CENTER

News Release

Tuesday, July 25, 2006, 7:00 a.m.
Lightning Fires, Update #1

Contact: (775) 748-4141
or (775) 753-0386, or
(775)-748-4020

NEW FIRE STARTS IN ELKO COUNTY

Elko, Nevada – The 24th of July saw 13 new wildfires in Elko County.

Firefighters in Elko County had a busy day Monday responding to 13 fires which resulted from a fast moving lightning storm. Two fires are still active.

The 9-Mile Fire burned 2,104 acres about 36 miles southwest of Montello, Nevada. The fire is 90% contained and full containment is expected later today. Heavy air tankers were used on the fire early Monday morning which helped stop its spread. At its peak, 137 fire fighters were assigned to the 9-Mile incident.

The Marble Fire burned approximately 1,000 acres 20 miles west of Wells. The fire is estimated at 5% containment. Fifty people are currently working the Marble Fire and more resources will be sent today.

“It was fairly hectic yesterday responding to the numerous fire starts,” said Elko Interagency Dispatch Center Manager Bill Roach. “The Spring Creek Volunteer Fire Department (VFD) basically went from one fire to the next in Spring Creek. Volunteer Fire Departments from Jiggs, 10-Mile, Wells, Ryndon, Metropolis, and the Lee Engine Company were all busy responding to fires. In addition fire personnel from the Nevada Division of Forestry, U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Duck Valley Reservation, and Bureau of Land Management fought the fires as well.”

“We were extremely concerned with the Cowboy Fire about 25 miles south of Jiggs,” Roach added. “The Cowboy Fire was in the proximity of a youth camp. As a precautionary measure, we asked the Elko County Sheriff’s Office to go the fire and visit the youth camp to assess the situation. The Sheriff’s Office was able to determine that the fire was two miles away and at no time were the kids in danger. We did receive a lot of calls from concern parents. The fire burned five acres and was contained.”

“Yesterday was a great example of our interagency cooperation and strength of our local VFDs,” Roach concluded. “We’re expecting a similar weather pattern today of dry lightning and isolated moisture ... and we’re gearing up for more activity.”

###